

difficulty and hazard. The hostile intention of the British government, and their chagrin at the loss of America, we readily believe, and that they will do us mischief when in their power, we will not question; but involved as they are in a debt, the interest of which a very popular minister cannot discover means to pay, we had little reason to be alarmed on that head; and if the British nation should be so weak as to revive the war, the same cogent motives that influenced the nations of Europe to unite in favour of our independence, will still operate to induce them to give us every assistance in their power; and we think the nonjurors will rather add to, than diminish our strength, if we will admit them to the rights of freemen.

As your honours stated the reasons which influenced your conduct, without any expectation that they would have any weight with us, you cannot be offended with our assuring you, that your opinion was well founded; and we are inclined to believe, that your reasons were calculated rather to alarm the pride and passions of our constituents, than convince their judgment. We so far presume to differ from the senate, as to think that no wise politician can seriously believe, that the state would be in any the least possible danger from admitting the nonjurors to the right of suffrage.

We cannot see the pernicious effects you discover from the adoption of the measure, which you are pleased to consider as extraordinary and unexpected, and a display of liberality and ill-judged tenderness; but, as it is rejected by your honours, you will undoubtedly receive the thanks of the public, for rescuing it from the danger our temerity would have plunged it into unless prevented by your foresight and steady perseverance. If we have erred in judgment, we must submit to the censure of our constituents, and can only console ourselves with the reflection, that our intentions were humane, and, as we thought, politic and wise.

By order,

W. HARWOOD, clk.

Which was read.

George Gale, Esq; from the senate, delivers to Mr Speaker the bill to authorize the issuing grants for the lands therein mentioned, endorsed; "By the senate, January 10, 1785: Read the first time and ordered to lie on the table.

" By order,

J. DORSEY, clk.

" By the senate, January 20, 1785: Read the second time with the proposed amendments and will pass.

" By order,

J. DORSEY, clk."

Amendments proposed. In the third page and second line strike out from the word "in" to the end of the clause, and insert "offer to the person applying for a grant to be examined upon oath or interrogatories touching the matters aforesaid, and to examine witnesses respecting the same, in order that it may be discovered, in a summary manner, whether the certificate was, at the time of passing the above recited act, bona fide the property of some citizen of this or some one of the United States, and the consideration was paid as aforesaid; and if the party shall refuse to be examined upon oath or interrogatories, and to have the matter inquired into in a summary manner, then the chancellor may note the same, and give information thereof to the attorney-general, who shall file a bill in chancery against such person for the discovery of the truth of the facts by the regular course of the proceeding in the chancery court; and if it shall appear to the chancellor, either upon examination in a summary way aforesaid, or upon a bill being filed as aforesaid, that the certificate upon which patent shall be applied for, was not bona fide the property of some citizen of this or some of the United States at the time of passing the above recited act, or that the consideration was not paid as aforesaid, in every such case the chancellor shall not order grant to be issued on such certificates, but shall declare the same void and of none effect; and the register of the land-office shall endorse the chancellor's determination on the certificate, and shall make a note thereof in the margin of the record wherein the warrant upon which such certificate was made hath been recorded." Fourth page seventh line, strike out "composition" and insert "purchase." After the word "money" same line insert "for the sales as aforesaid." After the word "case" in the eighth line insert "where part only of the purchase money hath been paid, and." After the word "money" third line from the bottom insert "which shall by such purchasers be." After the word "treasurer" second line from bottom insert "is aforesaid."

Which were read the first and second time, agreed to, and the bill ordered to be engrossed.

Charles Carroll, of Carrollton, Esq; from the senate, delivers to Mr. Speaker the journal of accounts, endorsed; "By the senate, January 20, 1785: Read and assented to.

" By order,

J. DORSEY, clk."

The bill for the benefit of Thomas Bacon and James Bacon, endorsed; "By the senate, January 19, 1785: Read the first time and ordered to lie on the table.

" By order,

J. DORSEY, clk."

" By the senate, January 20, 1785: Read the second time by especial order and will pass.

" By order,

J. DORSEY, clk."

Which was ordered to be engrossed.

The bill to repeal such part of the acts of assembly therein mentioned, as authorized Thomas Contee to collect the debts of William Molleson and of William and Robert Molleson, endorsed; "By the senate, January 14, 1785: Read the first time and ordered to lie on the table.

" By order,

J. DORSEY, clk."

" By the senate, January 20, 1785: Read the second time with the proposed amendment and will pass.

" By order,

J. DORSEY, clk."

Amend-